

# The West Virginian

"THE PAPER THAT GOES HOME."

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WEDNESDAY EVENING, JUNE 29, 1916.

## AMERICA FIRST

### A LESSON.

OUR miniature standing army was not ready to meet even such a problem as northern Mexico presented.

The national guard was called upon. But it will take months to put the guard in shape for service in Mexico. It is short of men who can finally be accepted, and necessary equipment.

All this despite the fact that the Mexican problem has been with us for several years and has been particularly pestiferous since the Villa raid.

Our few airplanes have proved deficient. We have no machine guns of the sort used in Europe. We need horses, mules, auto trucks, motor cycles—everything.

It is possible that only war itself will wake us.

Against an invasion by a first class power our army would be swept away like a thread in a cystone.

Of course, the answer to this from our friends the pacifists is that an army provokes war; a man carrying a gun wants to use it, etc. All of which reminds us that umbrellas do not provoke rain, nor fire extinguishers a blaze—but still they are handy things to have around.

We could not get a quarter of a million trained men into the field for active service in less than nine months. We haven't officers enough to command such a force.

Watch the Mexican situation for an illustration of how unprepared we really would be in case of war with a first class power.

### THE FIRST GETS ORDERS.

N O SOONER had the orders come from Charleston for the First Regiment, norther regiment of this state, to assemble, than the local armory became a beehive of activity. Last night members of companies H and I gathered at the armory to await further in-

## WASHINGTON NEWS GOSSIP

By CHARLES BROOKS SMITH.

WASHINGTON, D. C., June 28.—President Wilson sent to the Senate this week the nominations of two West Virginia postmasters M. Grundy Miller was appointed postmaster at Mateoka an office which becomes presidential July 1st, 1916. Charles L. Watkins was named as postmaster at Shinnston to succeed C. S. Randolph whose commission expires July 16, 1916.

The Senate has passed the bill introduced in the upper house abrogating the contract between the United States government and the officials of the Parkersburg-Marietta Interurban Railway Co. The contract was for the lease of land and water power on the Muskingum River, which it was afterwar found was not needed by the company. The bill went to the House with a request for concurrence in the action taken by the Senate.

John E. Young, fourth class postmaster at Elmira, has been sent his commission from the postoffice department.

There is a very considerable feeling of satisfaction in military circles here that the National Guard has responded so promptly and willingly to the demands made upon it recently. Officials say that in spite of the sacrifice it means to most of the enlisted men, reports from all over the country say that there has been almost no tendency to evade service. Militia calls mean sacrifice for many and in possibility no other city is this felt more than in the Nation's capital. The men who will go into camp from the District alone will cause the District pay roll to be depleted by about \$36,000. More than all of this amount, it is estimated, is represented in Federal government and District government salaries.

In nearly every department of the government there are stories going the rounds of men who must make considerable sacrifices to do guard duty. "It's all in the same one department work," remarked. "He had been promoted the very day of the summons to a position he had worked for through many months, and did not have an opportunity to avail himself of the promotion even for an hour. That seems to be the philosophical way the call has received throughout the country."

Immediately after the announcement that the National Guard had been called the government was notified by the Aero Club of America that it would do all in its power to aid the government in the Mexican crisis, by providing aeroplanes and aviators for pe-

structions, while hundreds of other curious citizens lingered about to see just how the soldier boys go about their work of preparation.

It was the opinion of many of the militiamen last night that orders to move to the concentration camp at Terra Alta would come soon and that they would be off for real work. All seemed more than eager to get into action.

A spirit of patriotism was evident on all sides. Many young men were recruited last night, the recruiting officers being busy signing up the papers for the new men. The armory was crowded with visitors. The soldier lads escorted inspection parties through the building. The target practice which is held indoors was explained. Two rifles of the regulation size but bored for 22 shot are used for indoor practice. A target is placed against the wall and the men back up a specified distance and bang away.

The supply room was a place of great interest to the novices. No one is permitted to enter this room but visitors were permitted to gaze through the door. All uniforms and other equipment save the guns are stored in the supply room. It was said that the uniforms would be distributed late last night or early today. The rifles are stored in separate lockers and were not available for inspection to the outsider, except by special permission.

Many of the boys had anticipated staying in the armory last night but orders were issued to go home and report this morning at nine o'clock. From then on they will be forced to be on duty most all the time, although those who live nearby will be permitted to sleep and eat at home.

If the Fairmont soldiers are called into actual service, they may be depended upon to acquit themselves in a manner that will reflect great credit. No braver, truer body of men can be found anywhere than the citizen soldiers of Fairmont.

Chief Harr says that Villa is not the only elusive man. Cooks, Serves Course Dinner at 79. A splendid example of preserved womanhood.

The New York Morning Telegraph is of the opinion that Wilson should have no trouble in getting the correspondence school vote.

May Sell Copper on Court House. That's almost as bad, if not worse than arresting him.

"Army rations won't bother me, for I was out with a minstrel show for a week once and never had a bite to eat," said a recruit last night.

Among the other reports from Mexico is one that Caranza has discovered Villa—with a commission in the First Chief's army.

Speaking of swapping horses while crossing a stream, what a long time it is taking us to ford the Rio Grande!

Aeroplanes, it is announced, have great difficulty in flying in Mexico. Also in getting anywhere near Mexico.

Does the making use of U-boats to bring "peace letters" forecast the beating of swords into ploughshares?

There are two kinds of neutrality—"strict" and "friendly." The Greeks are now carefully preserving the latter.

Even the coldest blooded pacifist might be thrilled a little by the story of the heroic death of Captain Boyd.

The proposal to rob the Scotts in the trenches of their kilts is a convincing example of the horrors of war.

If the Hon. Josephus Daniels keeps on at this rate he will soon become a regular jingo.

Shepherdstown has been appointed a rural mail carrier on a newly established route extending out from that town.

Dr. Price, of Marlinton, who has represented Pocahontas county in the House of Delegates and who will be remembered by many persons as one of the pioneer advocates of prohibition in that body, has been a visitor in the city for several days. He was accompanied by Mr. Yeager, also of Marlinton.

Congressman Edward Cooper was forced to leave his official duties for a couple of days this week to go to Norfolk, Va., to appear as a witness in a most important suit which is pending there. It is litigation over title to valuable coal properties.

Congressman Littlepage visited the State Department yesterday in an effort to get something done to release a cargo of gloves which fell into the British blockade trap. While it was consigned to a New York firm of importers, it appears that glove dealers in West Virginia have an interest in the matter, having orders for next winter in the cargo. Col. Littlepage got busy when a number of his constituents appealed to him. The cargo was captured several months ago.

### Monongalia Musings

\*\*\*Good evening. Has Robinson or Lilly received the nomination? Each has ardent supporters, and the feelings of many are expressed in the couplet:

"How happy could I be with either, Woe to the dear charmer away."

\*\*\*The best laid schemes of mice and men oft fall, as Burns would say, but you may rest assured that Theodorius is planning already to secure the nomination in 1920.

\*\*\*Billy Alford Sunday is preparing to invade Boston and the results of his sophistry and slang is thus anticipated by a conservative religious journal of New England: "The quiet, rational, chaste gospel of Jesus Christ will be subjected to language unfitted for decent people to hear, the superstitions of the sixteenth century will be let loose like go many bats in a church garret, and when the excitement is over and the good people in the churches get back to former conditions and feel in their empty pockets and think it all over they will realize that not one illuminating truth has been added to the sum of their knowledge and not one of the so-called converts can be depended on to carry the burdens of philanthropy, truth and righteousness."

The historian may now begin the terrible task of writing the History of the Decline and Fall of the Bull Moose Party. Much nerve and great powers of penetration and analysis will be required. Edward Gibbon was inspired to write his celebrated History of the Decline and Fall of

## OUTBURSTS OF EVERETT TRUE

(BY CONDO.)



Rome, by viewing the ruins of the Eternal city and hearing the lasses sing their evening songs. The gall-soaked genius who is destined to portray for posterity the decline and demise of the greatest collection of undisciplined egotists that ever inhabited grasshoppers on this planet, should visit Armageddon where vines still cling to the mouldering walls and sacred fane are sinking in desert sands. There he may hear Hiramity Johnson and Geewhawad Perkins chanting in twilight somber hour the tender refrain: "For the blabney Bull Moose I had much use."

\*\*\*Here is a gem from the gigantic mind of William E. Channing that cannot be repeated too often: "A sect skillfully organized to cover with one cry, combined to cover with reproach, whoever may differ from themselves, to drown the free expression of opinion by denunciations of heresy, and to strike terror unto the multitude by joint and perpetual menace—such a sect is as perilous and palsy to the intellect as the Inquisition."

\*\*\*Muddy roads and road working specials continue. These two will never be divorced, but hand in hand they go wading down the highway of time. They will be a puzzle to the philosophers of all the ages.

\*\*\*Those Progressives who for four days at Chicago yelled "We want Teddy," only to have him refuse the nomination, will perhaps be forever immune to such psychological epidemics.

\*\*\*To abandon that which is absurd and unreasonable ought to be a pleasure as well as a duty. While criticism is sometimes painful it is not one of the implements of progress? Criticism has driven witchcraft from the western hemisphere, leveled the walls of the Bastille, obliterated the dragon where Galleo pined in sorrow.

S. C. MUSGRAVE.

## BITS OF STATE NEWS

Over two hundred representative citizens of Wellsburg Monday evening resolved themselves into a general board of trade and held probably the most remarkable town meeting in the history of Brooke county. The purpose of the gathering, which was held in the court house, was to encourage the building of a steel plant within the corporate limits of the city, which will cost a million and a half dollars. The project is backed by eastern capitalists. Before the conclusion of the mass meeting nearly every man who participated in the deliberations, came forward and signed his name to a paper pledging to pay proportionally a sum covering thousands of dollars in inducements that the new industry may be secured for Wellsburg. The city council met jointly with the citizens and took part in every stage of the meeting.

A divorce suit hinges in the courts of Ohio county on the custody of one green parrot. Many a suit says the Wheeling Telegraph has hinged over the award of minor children, but this is the first on record where the suit hangs on the award of the custody of a bird.

Charles L. Davis instituted the suit through Attorney Carl Forsythe against his wife, Edna Viola Davis. When it came time to serve the papers upon the defendant it was discovered she was in Parkersburg. The sheriff of Wood county was appealed to get service upon Mrs. Davis and he succeeded. This morning his return came back with this message: "Mr. Davis says that if Mr. Davis gives her the parrot that she will not fight the suit for divorce, but if Mr. Davis keeps the parrot then Mrs. Davis will fight the divorce."

The importance of Polly in the suit came as a surprise, and whether the bird has important evidence to reveal that his custody is so important is a matter over which court officials are speculating not a little.

From Morgantown to Charleston by the birch bark (canoe) canoe, is the little excursion being taken by Harry Cronin, 1916 manager of the university football team and James Lively, a student of the state school. The crew was on shore in Wheeling Monday

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county came out three cases of whiskey and two barrels of beer ahead.

Just to show how generous some of our employers are in the city we cite this: Charles Martin as soon as he heard Doc Linger was called to the colors gave him his pay up till July 1.

Payable upon Doc's return.

If the Guardsmen do not get to kill any Mexicans they can come back with hair-raising tales of the Mexican hairless dog.

We look forward to a noisy Fourth on the border.

Ought to stick out Old Glory today to show the boys who are ready to fight that they are to get the right kind of send off.

The militia captains had to send out for more ink last night when that bunch started to enlist.

Harry Conner says he wishes the morning paper would please keep him from getting arrested. He says twice it has had him arrested when he knew nothing of it.

If some one would only put Caranza wise that Lieutenant Sherrard is off for war Caranza will muster out

his army and duck.

Ought to be able to buy a lot of sewers for \$40,000 with Fairmont boasting of the best system in the state now.

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